

What Is Claimed Is:

1. Flake-like α -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 0.5 to 25 μm and an aspect ratio, expressed by particle major diameter/average thickness, of greater than 50 to 2000 and having a thin flat form.

2. The flake-like α -alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein a phosphoric compound is present in an amount of 0.2 to 5.0% by weight, in terms of oxide P_2O_5 , relative to the weight of the alumina particles.

3. The flake-like α -alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

4. A method for producing the flake-like α -alumina particles according to claim 1, comprising a hydrothermal synthesis process of an aqueous slurry in which the aqueous slurry comprises an alumina hydrate and/or an alumina gel, having a particle size regulated to not more than 2 μm in average particle size and not more than 5.0 μm in maximum particle size, as a starting raw material, and phosphoric acid ions are added in an amount of 1.0×10^{-3} to 1.0×10^{-1} mol per mol of the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material.

5. The method according to claim 4, in which besides the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material and the phosphoric acid ions, α -alumina particles having an particle major diameter of less than 1 μm and a specific surface area of at least 5 m^2/g are further added in an amount of 1.0×10^{-6} to 5.0×10^{-3} mol per mol of the alumina hydrate and/or alumina gel as the starting raw material for the hydrothermal synthesis process, so that the resultant flake-like α -alumina particles are controlled in particle major diameter.

6. A cosmetic containing flake-like α -alumina

particles according to claim 1.

7. The cosmetic according to claim 6, in which the flake-like α -alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half of the sum of particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in minor axis, of 0.5 to 15 μm .

8. The cosmetic according to Claim 6, wherein the flake-like α -alumina particles are compounded in an amount of 1 to 90% by weight based on the weight of the cosmetic.

9. A cosmetic containing flake-like α -alumina particles having an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in minor axis, of 0.5 to 15 μm .

10. The cosmetic according to Claim 9, wherein the flake-like α -alumina particles are compounded in an amount of 1 to 90% by weight based on the weight of the cosmetic.